

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02662 130807Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 W

----- 127942

P 130645Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4566

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 2662

FOR ATHERTON FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK,

SUBJECT: ADMISSION OF MR. SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO TO HARVARD

1. RECENTLY PRIME MINISTER AND BEGUM BHUTTO ASKED MY ADVICE ABOUT A PROBLEM CONCERNING THEIR SON, SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO. BHUTTO LET ME READ A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN ADDRESSED TO HIS OFFICE WHICH EXPLAINED THAT THE PAK EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THREE HARVARD OFFICIALS TO PRESS THE CLAIM OF SHAHNAWAZ FOR ADMISSION TO HARVARD. THE OFFICIALS WERE THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS, THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND THE FOREIGN STUDENT ADVISOR. THE OFFICIALS ADVISED THEM THAT SHAHNAWAZ'S BACKGROUND AND THE ASSOCIATIONS OF HIS FAMILY WITH THE UNIVERSITY WEIGHED STRONGLY IN HIS FAVOR. HOWEVER, THE DECIDING FACTOR WOULD BE HIS ACADEMIC RECORD AND THEY REGRET THAT IN THEIR JUDGMENT IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT SHAHNAWAZ TO BE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION. THE LETTER INDICATES THAT SIDNEY SOBER HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO BE HELPFUL ON THE MATTER BUT HE RECEIVED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME RESPONSE FROM HARVARD. HARVARD APPARENTLY ADVISED THAT SHAHNAWAZ SPEND A YEAR IN A TUTORIAL SCHOOL OR COLLEGE SO THAT HE COULD IMPROVE HIS GRADES.

2. BHUTTO WAS CLEARLY IN A DILEMMA OVER THIS, SO MUCH SO THAT HE ASKED MY ADVICE AS TO WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO TRY TO DO. HE KNOWS THAT SHAHNAWAZ

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02662 130807Z

HAS NOT WORKED HARD ENOUGH AS A STUDENT, BUT FEELS THAT

A PART OF THE FAULT LIES IN THE ABNORMAL SURROUNDINGS
HE HAS HERE AS THE SON OF A PRIME MINISTER. HE BELIEVES
HIS SON IS CAPABLE OF MAKING A GO AT IT AT HARVARD AND
THAT HE WOULD BE UNDER PRESSURE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF
FAMILY PRIDE, AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS BROTHER
AND SISTER AT HARVARD, RADCLIFFE, AND OXFORD. BECAUSE
OF THESE PRESSURES, I BELIEVE HE THINKS THAT SHAHNAWAZ
WOULD PRODUCE BETTER AT HARVARD THAN AT SOME UNKNOWN
PREP SCHOOL.

3. THOSE OF US THAT KNOW SHAHNAWAZ CONSIDER HIM TO BE
FAR ABOVE THE AVERAGE FROM AN INTELLIGENCE POINT OF
VIEW. HE HAS NOT WORKED VERY HARD AT THE INTERNATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK HE WOULD
PROBABLY MAKE A GO OF IT AWAY FROM THE PRESENT SURROUNDINGS
AND ASSOCIATES HE HAS HERE IN VIEW OF HIS FATHER'S
POSITION. THE FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP IS A VERY STRONG
ONE, AND WHILE I OF COURSE COULD BE WRONG, MY OWN VIEW
IS THAT HE WOULD MAKE THE GRADE.

4. RECENTLY AT LARKANA I TOLD BHUTTO IF HE WANTED
ME TO I WOULD SEE IF THERE IS ANY ADDITIONAL PERSUASION

THAT MIGHT BE PUT TO HARVARD ON THIS CASE, WARNING HIM
THAT HARVARD STANDARDS WERE TOUGH AND THAT IT MIGHT
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE MUCH INDENT. I SUGGESTED HE
MIGHT CONSIDER TRYING TO GET SHAHNAWAZ BACK TO THE STATES
JUST AS SOON AS HE COULD GET HIS HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS HERE
WHICH WOULD BE ABOUT JUNE 1. IF THE PROPER SUMMER PREP
SCHOOL ARRANGEMENT COULD BE MADE, OR EVEN PRIVATE TUTORING,
WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO EASE HIS FIRST FEW MONTHS AT
HARVARD THIS MIGHT LET HIM DO BETTER IN THE CRITICAL
PERIOD JUST AFTER HE ENTERS. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW HOW
MUCH INFLUENCE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT MIGHT HAVE ON HARVARD,
BUT WOULD HOPE IT MIGHT HELP.

5. BHUTTO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THESE
THOUGHTS AND I GATHER WOULD APPRECIATE GREATLY ANYTHING
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO TRY TO INFLUENCE HARVARD
TOWARDS ADMITTING SHAHNAWAZ.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 02662 130807Z

6. I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO APPROACH HARVARD FROM HERE
AND THEREFORE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO GIVE YOU THE
PROBLEM. I, OF COURSE, WILL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU
WHETHER YOU THINK THE SECRETARY MIGHT BE WILLING TO
TAKE A HAND IN THIS ONE HIMSELF. ALSO, I LEAVE TO YOUR
JUDGMENT WHETHER PAT MOYNIHAN MIGHT BE USEFUL. PERHAPS
YOU WILL HAVE BETTER IDEAS BUT ANY HELP YOU CAN THINK

OF WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA02662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0625
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760364/aaaacedo.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMISSION OF MR. SHAHNAWAZ BHUTTO TO HARVARD
TAGS: OVIP, PK, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, (BHUTTO, SHAHNAWAZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006